



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Announces Today is First Day for Counties to Mail Ballots to Military and Overseas Voters

Applications and Registration Forms Available Through Website

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson visited March Air Reserve Base today to meet with Colonel Al Aimar and California National Guard members to discuss the new resources available to military and overseas voters and urged military personnel and citizens who are living abroad and are registered or eligible to register to vote to participate in the next election. Overseas voters are encouraged to apply for an absentee ballot and cast their votes in the upcoming primary election on June 6th. Today marks the 60th day before the June 6th primary election and the first day that county officials may begin mailing out the military and overseas ballots.

"I urge all eligible voters to take part in this election, including those who are currently living and serving abroad," Secretary McPherson said. "I have recently introduced a new user-friendly ballot that will allow California's military and citizens who live overseas to cast their ballot easily and in a timely manner, so that their votes count."

The new overseas ballot appears in a more generic and user-friendly format to allow military and overseas voters to simply write in the candidate and office for which they are voting. This eliminates the need for each county to coordinate a separate ballot for faxing and helps to expedite the casting of overseas ballots.

Election laws allow California military personnel and those who are visiting or living abroad to register to vote by mail or fax. In addition, overseas voters may return their ballots by mail or fax.

The elections office must receive all voted ballots, including those voted by overseas and military citizens, no later than the close of the polls or 8 p.m. on June 6th.

Voters can obtain details about their right to vote and download the appropriate forms by visiting the Secretary of State's website at www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_mov.htm. Military and overseas voters can also e-mail the Secretary of State's Office at MOV@ss.ca.gov, which is available virtually anywhere in the world, to ask questions about voting deadlines or their ballot.

Forms for registering to vote and applications for absentee ballots are also available from the Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website at www.fvap.gov.